GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5779
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2007
RELIGIOUS CONVERSION AMENDMENT BILL
Mishra Dr. Rajesh Kumar

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jain Community through the National Commission for Minorities have expressed strong reaction to the Religious Conversion (Amendment) Bill passed by the State Government of Gujarat and the Jain Society has threatened to launch a countrywide agitation; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI. A.R. ANTULAY)

(a)&(b): The Jain community, represented to the National Commission for Minorities, its anguish over the decision of the Gujarat legislature to amend the Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act and to declare Buddhists and Jains as Hindus for purposes of religious conversion.

A Press Note was issued by the National Commission for Minorities expressing the view that the right to profess, practice and propagate religion, guaranteed by Article 25 of the Constitution, is an essential ingredient of the country`s multi-religious edifice. The State Government has been urged to maintain the sanctity of this basic provision and to resolve any misgivings / misunderstandings through dialogue.